2nd edition of European supply chain leaders ranking

Top 28 Supply Chain Executives in Europe

Who are the most influential supply chain executives in Europe? Which leaders are truly shaping their organisations and can be seen as a poster child of the supply chain universe? For the second consecutive year, Supply Chain Media and executive search agency Inspired-Search present a ranking of Europe’s supply chain leaders.

By Martijn Lofvers, Onno Beijers and Marieke Lenstra

The ranking of the top 28 supply chain executives in Europe is based on several criteria including business impact, span of control, visibility and awards won. This year, for the first time, this list of executives also takes into account the annual Supply Chain Top 25 by analyst firm Gartner, which identifies leading companies in global supply chains. Headhunters from other European executive search companies have also cast their personal votes to contribute to this year’s ranking. This brings several newcomers to the list, such as Ralf Busche who moved into the position of Senior Vice President of Global Supply Chain Strategy & Performance at BASF Group in January 2016. Furthermore there are notably more women in this year’s list, which is positive news for the gender diversity of European supply chain teams.

Kroes started her career in 1997 as Port and Transportation Consultant at Royal Haskoning. Later she became Senior Associate at Booz Allen Hamilton before she moved to TNT, where she ultimately became Global Director Strategy.

Bernard Amoury started his career in 1985 as an engineer in the areas of energy and military research at Serete and then Technip. He joined Sanofi in 1989 to develop the company’s energy policy. Bernard subsequently held various roles of growing importance.

However, the most important change in this list of Europe’s top supply chain executives is that Chris Tyas, VP Supply Chain at Nestlé, has replaced Pier Luigi Sigsimondi as captain of the ranking. Who do you need to know in supply chain executive search in Europe? See our website for the full list.

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within Sanofi including in the finance, purchasing and manufacturing departments based in France and in the USA. In 2001, he joined Sanofi’s supply chain department as Head of the Core Products Team. In 2006, he was promoted to Head of Sanofi Global Supply Chain. Bernard holds a master degree in engineering from Arts et Métiers ParisTech and a master degree in finance from the University of Paris XV.

16 | ADRIAN KACZMARCZYK
Corporate Vice President Global Supply Chain, Henkel

Adrian Kaczmarczyk has been in charge of the global supply chain activities for Henkel’s Adhesive Technologies business unit since January 2013. In this role, he is responsible for the organisational areas of customer service, demand & supply planning, S&OP, service strategy, supply chain development and logistics. After graduating in mechanical engineering, Adrian Kaczmarczyk started his career at Procter & Gamble. Five years later, he moved to Avery Dennison where he served in various roles related to supply chain, manufacturing and purchasing, including in the Netherlands and Australia. During this period he completed his MBA at the University of Surrey (UK). He subsequently moved to Siegwerk Druckfarben AG, where Adrian Kaczmarczyk became responsible for the supply chain and operations in the EMEA region.

15 | INGRID EBNER
Director EU Supply Chain, Amazon EU Sarl

Ingrid Ebner is head of the Continental European Supply Chain Operations Teams, member of the WW/European Senior Operations Team, in charge of managing the end-to-end supply chain operations of a multibillion company in an e-commerce logistical environment and she is leading EU-wide initiatives like the launch of central inbound locations and the We Pay programme. Ebner studied at the Munich University of Applied Sciences.

14 | WIM VAN AALST
Chief Supply Chain Director, Waitrose

Waitrose’s Supply Chain Director, Wim van Aalst, joined the business in August 2016 and is responsible for supply planning and distribution of operations. He was previously the Chief Supply Chain Officer for Landmark Group, a retailing group headquartered in Dubai with 2,000 stores in 20 countries. Wim has also had experience working in supply chain roles for Adidas and TNT. He has an extensive knowledge of end-to-end supply chain management and has spent 20 years in the industry working in a variety of senior roles across Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the USA.

13 | NINA ANTILA
Chief Supply Chain Officer, Reima Oy

Nina Anttila is a customer-focused supply chain management expert with several years of international experience. She has worked for over 20 years in various areas of supply chain and held operational responsibilities for areas ranging from Sales to Material Management and Strategic Sourcing. For the past two years she has been heading Reima’s supply chain globally. During her career she has been actively looking for innovative ways to improve the end-to-end (E2E) supply chain planning and execution. The key driver has not been to move the costs to someone else but to move them out of the value chain completely. Cross-functional collaboration and connecting extended supply networks together are her key competence areas. She considers digitalising the E2E supply chain and using the real-time data for accurate decision-making as the most important initiative on her roadmap right now. She has worked both in multinational and global corporates like Nokia Mobile Phones, Alcatel, Finnair and Konecranes as well as in small and medium-size enterprises like Reima.

12 | PETER ERNSTING
Evp Group Supply Chain, Carlsberg Group

Peter Ernsting joined Carlsberg as Senior Vice President, Group Supply Chain, and a member of Carlsberg’s Executive Committee in June 2011, taking over from Kasper Madsen. During Madsen’s leadership Carlsberg’s supply chain underwent significant changes – starting with the Operational Excellence projects in 2003 and continuing with implementing Lean and optimising the brewery structures in Europe – and the supply chain became increasingly more efficient. Ernsting has continued this process, taking the next steps to ensure that Carlsberg reaches the service and efficiency levels of the best-in-class fast-moving consumer goods. Previously, Ernsting was Chairman of Unilever Supply Chain Company, where he led the total end-to-end supply chain of Unilever in Europe. He was responsible for around 20,000 people located across 69 factories and with an overall profit & loss responsibility of EUR 8 billion.

11 | DANIEL HELMIG
Head of Supply Chain Management/CPO, ABB

Daniel Helmig has been with ABB since 2009. His experience spans roles in the electronics/semiconductor industry and the automotive industry. Prior to joining ABB, he was the Chief Procurement Officer for Infineon Technologies AG and Qimonda. Helmig holds a bachelor degree in business administration from the Business Academy in Cologne, Germany. He also has an MBA with honours from Michigan State University.

10 | Ivanka Janssen
VP Supply Chain Drinks Europe, PepsiCo

Ivanka Janssen was appointed VP Supply Chain Drinks Europe at PepsiCo in 2016. She has extensive experience in strategic sourcing, supply chain management and
logistics and procurement. She joined Diageo in October 2010 from Philip Morris International where she directed global integrated planning, sourcing and logistics operations, implemented lean supply chain management across its affiliates globally and developed and rolled out a comprehensive supplier collaboration programme. Janssen was appointed Supply Chain Director for Europe of Diageo in July 2011. Her focus is to ensure that the European supply chain is the integrated business partner to Diageo and its customers by fulfilling Diageo’s consumer demand through a customer-driven, end-to-end segmented supply chain that is efficient, responsive and agile. In 2010 she founded the ‘Female leaders in Supply Chain Network’. This network aims to increase the number of women in senior Supply Chain positions.

Patrick Dittli
Global Supply Chain Director, Metro
Prior to joining Metro Cash & Carry in 2014, Patrick Dittli spent ten years at Nestlé, initially serving as an internal consultant before assuming the role of Supply Chain Manager Ice Cream, then becoming Head of Supply Chain Zone Europe. Previously, Dittli has worked as a consultant at Accenture, based in Zürich, and served as CEO of Nufatron. Dittli holds an MBA from the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland.

Dirk Holbach
Corporate SVP & Head Supply Chain
Laundry & Home Care, Henkel
Dirk Holbach, Corporate Vice President, is in charge of international production for the Laundry & Home Care business sector at Henkel. Prior to that he led global purchasing and supply chain of the same business sector for a four-year period and occupied various leading positions in purchasing and sales. He studied business and mechanical engineering at the Technical University of Kaiserslautern and holds a PhD in information management from the University of Duisburg-Essen.

Rhiannon Davies
Vice President Supply Chain, GrandVision
Rhiannon Davies, born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, grew up in Canada and now lives in the Netherlands. Since September 2012 she has been Vice President Supply Chain and member of the GrandVision management. Davies, educated in civil engineering and politics (Montreal, Canada) started her career as Senior Consultant/Manager at Deloitte in Toronto and switched in 2000 to the Netherlands. In 2003 she became Director Central Supply Chain Europe at Numico, and four years later Vice President Global Strategic Product Sourcing at Groupe Danone. In 2011 she was made a member of the Supervisory Board at Fairfood. She describes her management style as follows: “I am a collaborative manager and I set strong targets and have high expectations but I believe I do this in a motivational way. I want to develop and work with people where possible. You need to trust people and give them space to create something of their own.”

Sami Naffakh
SVP Supply Chain EMEA, Estée Lauder Companies Europe
Sami Naffakh is Senior Vice President Supply Chain at The Estée Lauder Companies for the EMEA region, which covers both Western Europe and emerging markets. This is a vast region with 17 affiliates and more than 80 countries. Sami leads the integrated end-to-end supply chain for this region and is accountable for safety, quality, service, cost and working capital. Since his arrival, Sami has led numerous transformational projects and initiatives on planning processes and systems, material sourcing, manufacturing and distribution networks as well as organisational design. Before joining the company, Sami was Vice President of Operations for Danone Early Life Nutrition in Asia-Pacific. He has more than 20 years of supply chain experience in blue-chip companies across a wide variety of fields and countries. Sami holds a master degree in industrial engineering from Ecole des Hautes Études Industrielles in Lille, France.

Ralf Busche
Senior Vice President Global Supply Chain Strategy and Performance, BASF Group
Ralf Busche has been Senior Vice President Global Supply Chain Strategy & Performance at BASF Group since January 2016. He is responsible for the areas of supply chain strategy, planning and process development, supply chain service and network optimisation as well as for managing supply chain performance for all the BASF business units. He ensures the availability of sufficient supply chain capacity and supply chain differentiation in each area of the business, maintaining an optimal balance between differentiation and standardisation.

Bert Stevens
VP Europe Operations, Nike
As Vice President Operations Bert Stevens is part of Nike’s most senior directors team in Europe. In 1994 he joined Nike as one of the key players to build Nike’s European Logistics Campus in Belgium. Starting from scratch, it grew into one of Nike’s biggest Distribution Centers in the world. In 2001 Stevens was awarded a Fellowship at the University of Leuven because of an innovative approach of general management that creates shared value for all stakeholders: investors, customers, employees, communities and the environment. In 2005 he moved to Nike’s European Headquarters in the Netherlands to become Vice President Europe Operations, being responsible for Supply Chain, Transportation, Demand & Inventory planning, Nike store and Digital supply chain, Innovation, Customer Operations, Lean thinking, Operations Technology.
Marc Engel joined the Unilever Leadership Executive (ULE) as Chief Supply Chain Officer on 1 January 2016. His appointment followed on from his position as Executive Vice President in Unilever’s East Africa business where he was responsible for laying the foundations for accelerated growth in emerging markets. In his 20-year career with Unilever, Engel has worked in Singapore, the Netherlands, UK, Brazil, Switzerland and Kenya. He has extensive experience in supply chain operations, covering procurement, logistics, finance and strategy development. He moved into the supply chain operation in 1998 and held various positions in the UK, Latin America, the Netherlands and Switzerland until becoming Unilever’s first Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) in 2008. He was in charge of the worldwide procurement of third-party goods and services with a budget of EUR 26 billion and a team of 1,500 people across 67 locations.

Roberto Canevari is Chief Supply Chain Officer at Burberry. Previously Canevari was the Executive Director of Corporate Supply Chain at Carrefour and member of the Company Executive Committee. In his current role, Canevari is responsible for driving end-to-end performance across all aspects of the supply chain and delivering shareholder value through efficient supply chain management. Canevari has been working in the fast-moving consumer goods sector for 20 years covering a variety of roles in supply chain, at both market and corporate level.

Chris Tyas has been working in the food industry for 35 years, having begun his career in procurement with the Mars Group. He has been working at Nestlé for 30 years, initially across manufacturing roles throughout Europe but also in human resources. Having joined Nestlé’s supply chain organisation at its inception in the mid-1990s, Tyas helped to establish the function in the UK before going on to lead supply chain, IT and business services in the UK & Ireland. Tyas then assumed responsibility for Europe, a role he served for three years, before becoming Head of Group Supply Chain on 1 July 2013. During his time with Nestle UK, Tyas commanded several initiatives with retailers to improve their on-shelf availability and increase efficiency. He has also used his skills outside of the supply chain business and several non-profit organisations have benefited from his expertise. He co-chaired at Efficient Consumer Response (ECR) UK and was Vice-Chairman at Global Standards One (GS1). According to Wayne Brophy, Managing Director of Cast UK, Tyas has also put much effort and time into encouraging others to improve themselves and he uses his knowledge in the area to help develop talent in the sector.